

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7959

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, CO  
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS AND MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT:  
VISIT OF DAS SCHNEIDER

1. IN THREE SEPARATE MEETINGS HELD YESTERDAY MORNING (AUG 21), DAS SCHNEIDER CONSULTED WITH APPROPRIATE GOC OFFICIALS ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS IN MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT. LISTER (ARA), EMB POL COUNS AND EMB ECON OFF ACCOMPANIED SCHNEIDER TO ALL THREE MEETINGS. GOC INTERLOCUTORS WERE GENERAL MANGER OF THE BANCO DE LA REPUBLICA BOTERO DE LOS RIOS; HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY PLANNING OFFICE AMB CAICEDO; HEAD OF UN SECTION OF FORIEGN MINISTRY GOMEZ GOMEZ; AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY BORDA.

2. SCHNEIDER BEGAN PRESENTATION AT THE BANCO DE LA REPUBLICA BY EXPLAINING TO BOTERO USG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AS IT RELATES TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFI'S). MAIN POINTS MADE BY SCHNEIDER IN THIS MEETING WERE:  
A. QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS ONE THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED. THE US CONGRESS HAS MADE ITS VIEWS KNOWN, AND IT IS ONE THAT IS SHARED BY PRESIDENT CARTER, THAT IFI'S SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES OF COUNTRIES TO WHOM LOANS ARE GRANTED, AS WELL AS THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THESE COUNTRIES. IF HUMAN RIGHTS  
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CONSIDERATIONS ARE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, FUTURE FINANCING BY USG FOR THESE IFI'S COULD BE AFFECTED.  
B. THE USG HOPES THAT EACH IFI WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CONSIDERING LENDING PROGRAMS FOR DIFFERENT COUNTRIES BUT DOES NOT WANT A CONFRONTATION OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. THUS, THE USG IS CONSULTING PRIVATELY WITH IFI MANAGEMENT AND WITH A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN

EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA WITH SIMILAR VIEWPOINTS. IT IS NOT THE USG'S VIEW THAT THE IFI'S SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT TO POLICE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFICIENCIES BUT, RATHER, THAT THE IFI'S SHOULD CONSIDER SUCH DEFICIENCIES WHEN LENDING POLICY IS ESTABLISHED. THE USG GENERALLY WILL SUPPORT LOANS TO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS, IF THE LOAN IS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE BASIC HUMAN CONDITIONS OF THE POPULATIONS OF THESE COUNTRIES.

C. THE USG WILL CONSULT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF SIMILAR PHILOSOPHY WHEN ITS VOTE IN AN IFI IS BASED ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS AND WOULD APPRECIATE SIMILAR INFORMATION EXCHANGES ON THE PART OF THE GOC. BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOC IN SUCH CASES WOULD BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH IFI EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND WITH APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES THROUGH THE US EMBASSY.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SCHNEIDER'S REQUEST FOR ADVICE ON WAYS IN WHICH USG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY OBJECTIVES COULD BE IMPLEMENTED, BOTERO DO LOS RIOS SAID THAT EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE SOCIAL CHARACTER OF IFI LOANS. ONE GOOD WAY OF IDENTIFYING HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS IN A PARTICULAR COUNTRY WOULD BE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE LOAN IN QUESTION WAS AIMED AT AIDING THE POORER CLASSES.

4. AT MEETING WITH CAICEDO AND GOMEZ, SCHNEIDER REITERATED POINTS SUMMARIZED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. COICEDO REPLIED THAT, IN CONFIDENTIAL

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FORMULATING ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, THE GOC FOUND ITSELF IN A QUANDARY. ON THE ONE HAND, COLOMBIA HAD NO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN AND THE GOC WISHED TO PROMOTE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES; ON THE OTHER HAND, COLOMBIAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS MILITATED AGAINST A STRONG GOC POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE QUESTION OF LATIN MAERICAN SOLIDARITY ALSO HAD TO BE CONSIDERED. A NEW GOVERNMENT HAD JUST ASSUMED POWER IN COLOMBIA, AND IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHO THE NEXT FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE, THOUGH A LEADING CANDIDATE WAS DIEGO URIBE VARGAS. URIBE HAD A STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND, IF HE WERE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE GOC WOULD PROBABLY HAVE A MMORE ACTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. IT COULD BE FORESEEN, HOWEVER, THAT ECONOMIC AND OTHER PRESSURES WOULD SOON BRING ABOUT A RETREAT FROM SUCH AN ACTIVE POLICY. THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES, TOO, WITH RESPECT TO THE CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED IN DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT A COUNTRY WAS A GROSS VIOLATOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. SCHNEIDER THANKED CAICEDO FOR THIS CANDID EXPOSITION OF THE GOC POSITION. HE POINTED OUT THAT, AT THE VERY LEAST, IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT TO AGREE ON CRITERIA COVERING VIOLATIONS AFFECTING THE INDIVIDUAL, E.G., TORTURE AND ARBITRARY

DETENTION. FURTHERMORE, WHETHER OR NOT TO VOTE AGAINST A LOAN IN ONE OF THE IFI'S WAS A SOVEREIGN DECISION AND DID NOT REQUIRE A FORMAL DETERMINATION BY THE UN OR ONE OF ITS AGENCIES THAT SYSTEMATIC VIOLATIONS HAD OCCURED. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATIONS WAS TO BRING ABOUT AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES, AND, TO PROMOTE THIS OBJECTIVE, USG POLICY ENVISAGED A NUMBER FO STEPS, OF WHICH VOTING AGAINST MULTILATERAL AID WAS NOT THE FIRST. IF COUNTRIES WHICH PERSISTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS RECEIVED PROPORTIONATELY MORE ASSISTANCE FROM IFI'S THAN THOSE THAT WERE GUILTLESS OF SUCH VIOLATIONS, THE CREDIBILITY OF THE IFI'S THEMSELVES WOULD BE UNDERMINED.

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6. NOTING THAT BOTERO HAD SIGNIFIED HIS APPROVAL OF THE IDEA OF EXCHANGIN INFORMATION ON LOAN VOTES IN THE IFI'S THROUGH THE RESPECTIVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND COLOMBIAN MINISTRIES/US EMBASSY, SCHNEIDER ASKED WHETHER CAICEDO ALSO APPROVED. THE LATTER REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

7. IN CONVERSATION WITH BORDA, WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED AS A COURTESY CALL, SCHNEIDER DESCRIBED THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT AND US POSITION ON SUBJECT MATTER BRIEFLY AND SOLICITED SECGEN'S COMMENTS. BORDA REPLIED THAT HE CONSIDERED US POSITION LOGICAL AND SHARED VIEW THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON PERSISTENT GROSS VIOLATORS. IN PARTICULAR, HE THOUGHT COGNIZANCE SHOULD BE TAKEN OF SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, WHERE APPALLING TORTURES WERE A DAILY OCCURENCE. THANKING SCHNEIDER FOR HIS VISIT, HE SAID HE WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS QUESTION IN WHICH GOC DEEPLY INTERESTED.  
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## Message Attributes

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